

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ULTRASONIC TOMOGRAPH FOR ANALYSIS OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN THE FIELD OF REFLECTION AND TRANSMISSION WAVES

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Abstract. This article presents the ultrasonic structure for the analysis of technological processes in the field of reflective and transmission waves. Ultrasound tomography enables the analysis of processes occurring in the examined object without interfering with its interior through appropriate acquisition and analysis of data. The design goal is to verify the repeatability of measurement results by eliminating laboratory equipment. The ultrasonic tomograph has been designed in a modular way and consists of a motherboard connected to an analog signal conditioning board, a liquid crystal display with an integrated graphics processor and a high voltage pulser with a 64 channel multiplexer. The solution was designed for tomographic measurements of technological process properties.

Keywords: ultrasound tomography, sensors, measurements

BUDOWA TOMOGRAFU ULTRADŹWIĘKOWEGO DO ANALIZY PROCESÓW TECHNOLOGICZNYCH W ZAKRESIE FAŁ ODBITYCH I TRANSMISYJNYCH

Streszczenie. W niniejszym artykule przedstawiono konstrukcję tomografu ultradźwiękowego do analizy procesów technologicznych w zakresie fal odbitych i transmisyjnych. Tomografia ultradźwiękowa umożliwia analizowanie procesów zachodzących w badanym obiekcie bez ingerencji w jego wnętrze poprzez odpowiednią akwizycję i analizę danych. Celem konstrukcyjnym jest weryfikacja powtarzalności wyników badań pomiarowych poprzez wyeliminowanie sprzętu laboratoryjnego. Tomograf ultradźwiękowy został zaprojektowany w sposób modułowy i składa się z płyty głównej połączonej z płytą kondycjonowania sygnału analogowego, wyświetlacza ciekłokrystalicznego ze zintegrowanym procesorem graficznym oraz impulsatora wysokiego napięcia wraz z 64 kanałowym multiplexerem. Urządzenie zostało zaprojektowane do tomograficznych pomiarów właściwości procesów technologicznych.

Słowa kluczowe: tomografia ultradźwiękowa, sensory, pomiary

Introduction

Ultrasound tomography can be used to analyze the processes taking place in the facility without interfering with the production, analysis or detection of obstacles, defects and various anomalies. The article describes the measuring system has a specially designed measuring structure. The application allows you to choose the right method of image reconstruction thanks to knowledge of the features of each solution. The process of identifying optimization or synthesis, in which the goal is to specify parameters describing the data field, is solved by the inverse problem. The designed system for data acquisition and analysis enables monitoring and control of technological processes related to the processing of data obtained from various sensors. The idea of measuring in ultrasonic tomography is shown in Fig. 1.

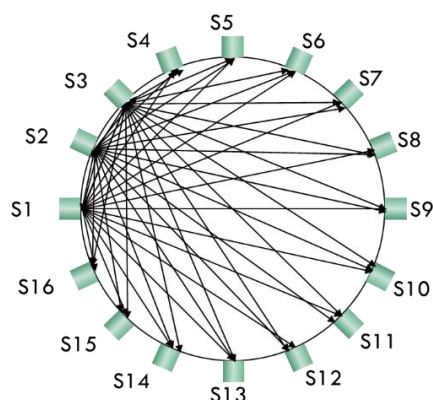


Fig. 1. The principle of ultrasonic measurement by transmission mode

Measuring technologies are still being improved. There is a clear tendency to implement more optimal solutions with an emphasis on active control and optimization [11–15, 25–27]. There are many numerical methods [1–4, 17, 24, 28, 29], but in order to solve the inverse problem, ultrasound tomography [5–10, 16] can be used.

The principle of operation is that one of the active probes sends an ultrasonic signal, the other probes are in the receiving

mode. The number of signal periods sent will depend on the type and size of the object being tested. For the container tested, four periods are sufficient. Active probes measure time individually from the moment the signal is sent to when it is picked up by individual transducers. This is the time when ultrasound travels the distance between probes.

1. Measurement system

The reflective ultrasound tomograph has been designed in a modular way (Fig. 2–4). The first module consists of a motherboard connected to an analog signal conditioning board and a liquid crystal display with an integrated FT811CB graphics processor. The second module consists of a high voltage pulse generator with a 64-channel multiplexer.

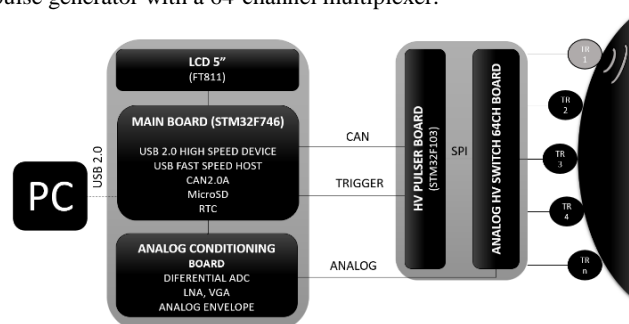


Fig. 2. Block diagram of an ultrasonic reflective tomograph

When designing the main module of the device, great emphasis was placed on its universality. The size of the printed circuit board depends on the dimensions of the FT811CB display. The main module board itself will be mounted under the display. The board allows you to connect external storage media: micro SD cards, portable drives to the USB Fast Speed port. The board has a spare RTC battery, spare registers, EEPROM memory. Communication with the computer can be implemented in the USB High Speed 2.0 standard. The debugger connector and serial port are connected. CAN, SPI, RS485 buses are output via the standard Cat 6a connector. Other I/O ports come from popular terminal blocks.



Fig. 3. Device model



Fig. 4. Ultrasound tomograph

The device is a closed structure that needs several control signals:

- **CAN 2.0A bus**
Setting device parameters such as:
 - Channel number to which the extortion is given,
 - Channel number from which the analogue signal is fed to the A / C converter,
 - The number of pulses generated,
 - Frequency of pulses generated,
 - Time of output shorting to ground after keying,
 - Brightness levels of RGB channels with backlit company logo.
- **TRIGGER**
This is a differential signal that triggers the bipolar excitation signal generator.
- **ANALOG**
The analog signal output from the multiplexer is protected by a high voltage cut-off system.

To generate waveforms to control the MOSFET key, use three cascade-connected hardware counters operating in One Pulse mode. In Figure 5 the exact way to connect the counters. The generator cycle begins by receiving a signal at the differential input of the TRIGGER line, which generates an interruption in the microcontroller during the execution of the ENA-BLE line is set to high, and also TIM1 is started (OUTA, OUTB), after the TIM1 countdown, the hardware called TIM2, the countdown for the first

counting period, after which the equipment sets the low state on OUTA, OUTB lines and starts TIM3. The third timer counts down the time by one TX output is topped with something that starts the interrupted program statement of the ENABLE line in the low state. Which causes MD1822 to set up secure tables on MOSFET TC8220 high-voltage key exchange control lines.

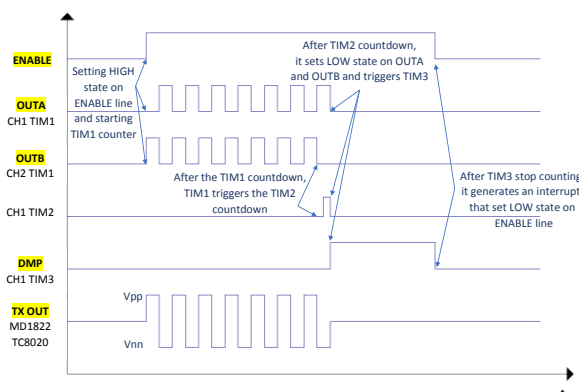


Fig. 5. MOSFET key control method for high voltage generator

User interface

Tomography software, including the user interface at the current stage of work is still being developed. The screenshots below are illustrative (Fig. 6).

Measuring parameters that can be changed:

- First probe number – the number of the probe from which the measurement sequence begins,
- Last probe number – the probe number at which the measurement sequence ends,
- Number of pulses – the number of bipolar pulses generated by the excitation system,
- Short to ground after transmission – the time for which the excitation system closes the ground lines after the transmission,
- Frequency – the frequency of the excitation signal,
- Input gain – amplification of the first stage of signal processing (12 bit),
- Output gain – amplification of the second stage of signal processing (signal envelope path, 8 bit),
- Measurement method – a method of performing measurements: reflection / transmission,
- Number of samples – the number of samples collected by the analog to digital converter,
- Sampling [ns] – signal sampling,
- A/D converter selection – selection of a/c converter (measurement of signal envelope or measurement of unprocessed signal).

The START button starts the measurement cycle during which data is sent via USB to the computer in binary form.

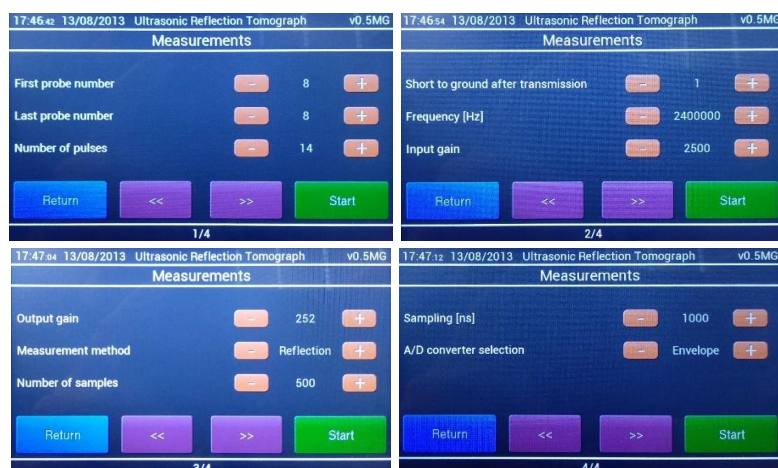


Fig. 6. Device measuring interface

2. Measurement tests

Measurements were made using 8 ultrasonic probes designed in the laboratory. The probes made by us work with a resonance frequency of 2.4 MHz. Due to the low resonance impedance of the transducers (approx. 2 Ohm), each probe has a 49 Ohm series resistor protecting the tomograph against damage. The ultrasonic transducers used, depending on the specimen, show varying sensitivity to signal reflections (Fig. 7).

The measurements were carried out in a plastic vessel with a diameter of 34 cm with full immersion of the sensor in water, a plastic bottle filled with water was used as a phantom (Fig. 8).

Tomograph settings:

- Number of pulses: 16,
- First level strengthening: 2332/4095,
- Second degree gain (envelope): 252/255,
- Measurement method: reflective,
- Number of samples: 500,
- Sampling: 1 us.



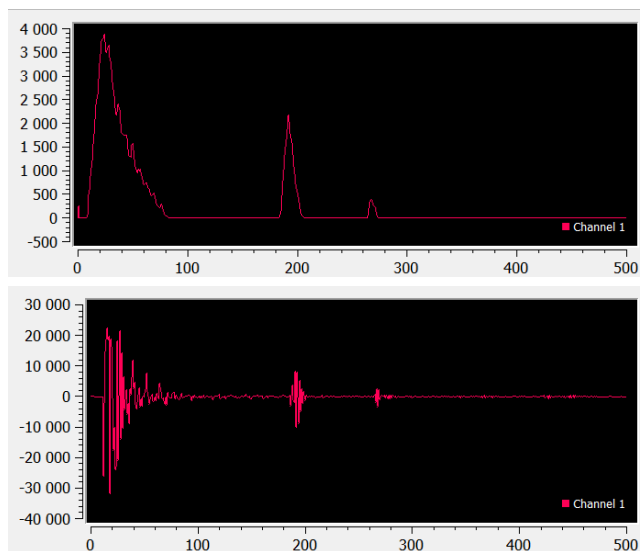
Fig. 7. Ultrasonic probe



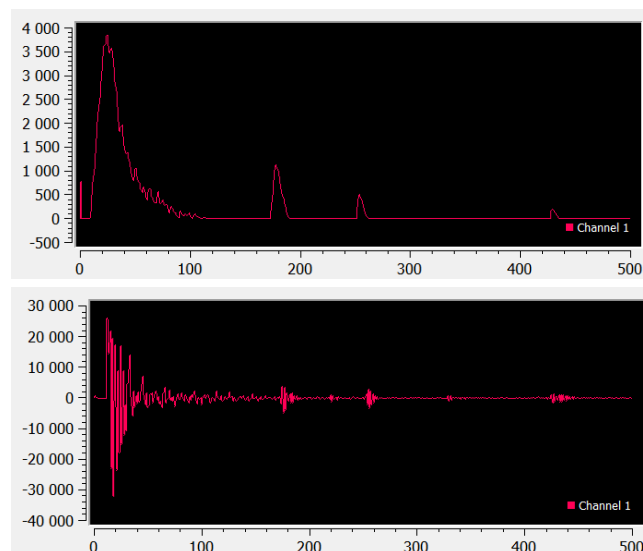
Fig. 8. Measuring object

The captured waveforms for each of the probes are shown below, and for comparison the waveforms captured without converting to boundaries (Fig. 9). From the measurements it is possible to observe a very high wave direction at such a high frequency. For example, the same bottle slightly tilted would not be visible through all probes, because the wave reflected from it directly would not return back to the inverter.

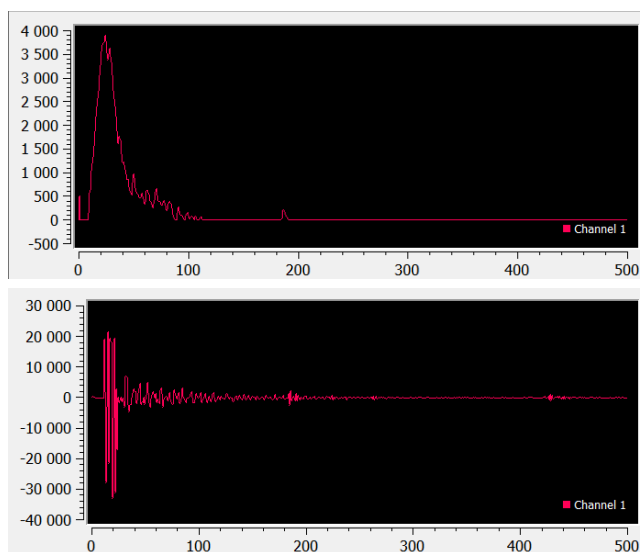
Sensor 1



Sensor 3



Sensor 2



Sensor 4

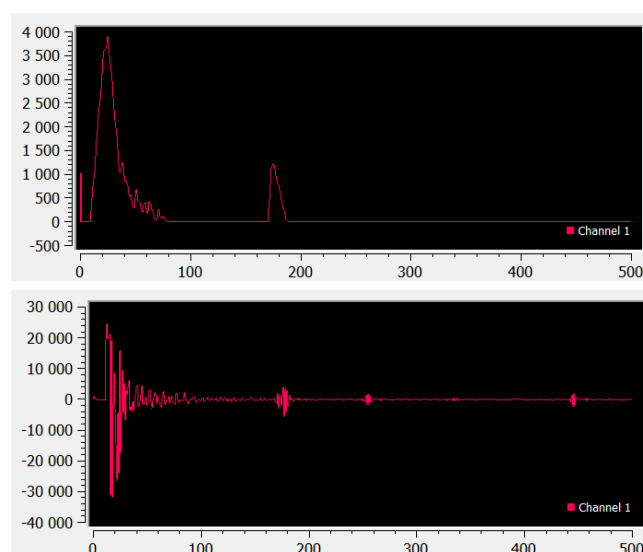


Fig. 9 (part 1). Waveforms for each probe and for comparison waveforms captured without processing into boundaries

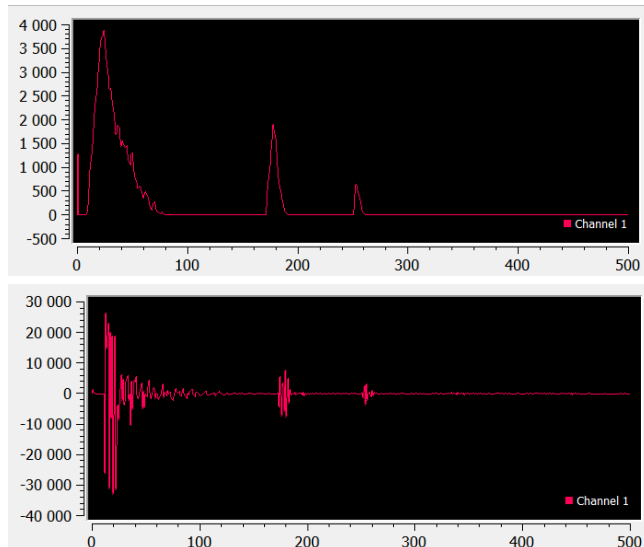
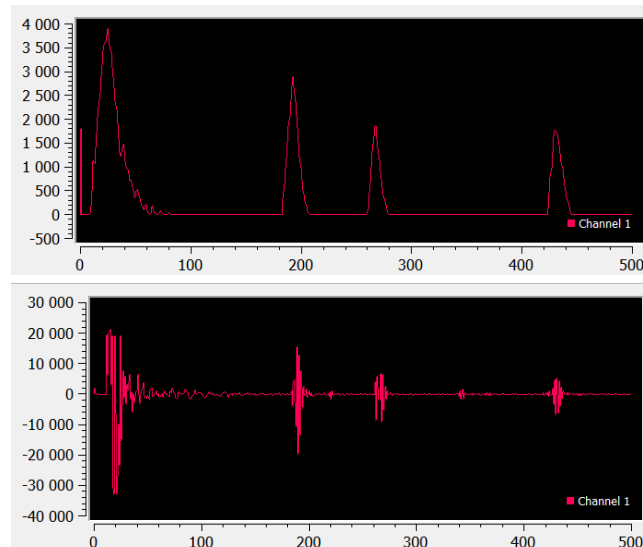
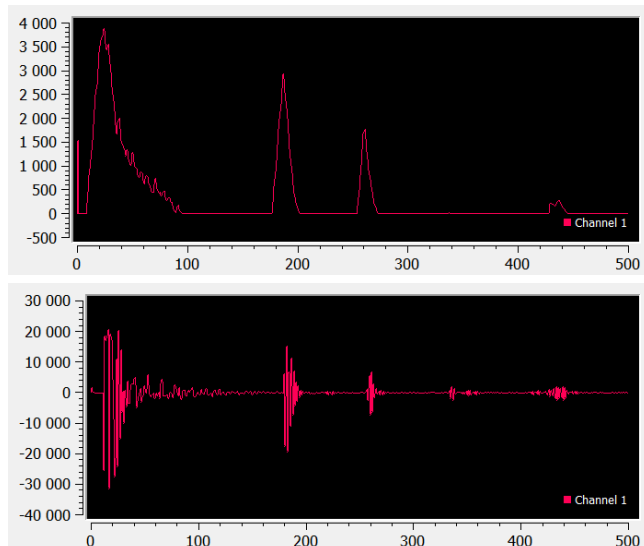
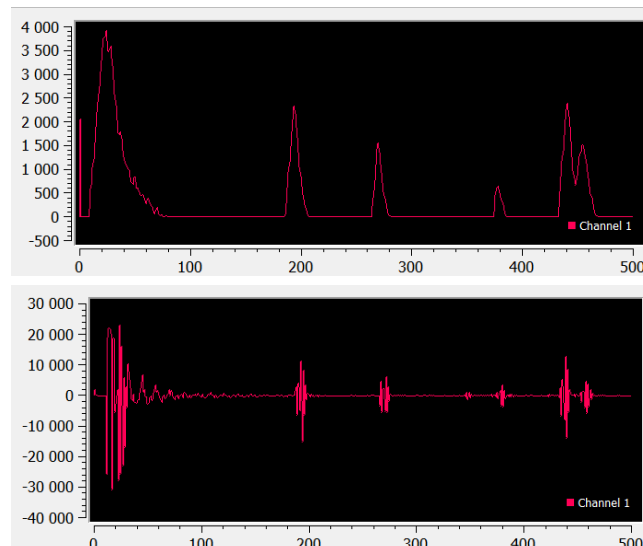
Sensor 5**Sensor 7****Sensor 6****Sensor 8**

Fig. 9 (part 2). Waveforms for each probe and for comparison waveforms captured without processing into boundaries

3. Conclusion

The article presents the construction of the device based on ultrasonic tomography. An original tomograph was designed for measuring ultrasonic waves and processing data obtained from various sensors. The ultrasonic tomograph has been designed in a modular way and consists of a motherboard connected to an analogue signal conditioning board, a liquid crystal display with an integrated graphics processor and a high voltage pulser with a 64 channel multiplexer. The device allows you to analyse the properties of various technological processes. Measurements were carried out in a plastic vessel with the sensor fully immersed in water, a plastic bottle filled with water was used as a phantom. Waveforms for each of the probes are presented and for comparison waveforms captured without processing into boundaries, where very high directionality of the wave can be observed at such a high frequency.

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otrzymano/received: 30.10.2019

przyjęto do druku/accepted: 06.12.2019